



the two inventions do not relate to a single general inventive concept in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,931,062. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the claims 18-26 and the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 3,931,062. For example, U.S. Patent No. 3,931,062 teaches that magnesium hydroxide is not present in a manner so as to function as an inorganic flame-retardant filler.


Applicants further note that the International Preliminary Examination Authority, the European Patent Office, did not report a unity of invention objection in the International Preliminary Examination Report ("PCT IPER"), dated January 25, 2001. Thus, the Examiner's restriction requirement, citing PCT Rule 13.1, appears to conflict with the conclusion in the PCT IPER.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is in error and request that the requirement be withdrawn. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 8, 2004

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